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COTTON QUOTA Program—1963

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 1962 is the day cotton farmers will vote on marketing quotas for the 1963 crop of upland cotton.

You are eligible to vote in the referendum if you engaged in the production of upland cotton in 1962.

At least two-thirds of the growers voting must approve the quotas if they are to continue in effect.

While the Administration plans to recommend new cotton legislation early in 1963, it is anticipated that such legislation would supplement rather than substantially change the following basic program choices in the Dec. 11 referendum.

IF QUOTAS ARE APPROVED —

- Marketing quotas and acreage allotments will be in effect.
- A farmer who exceeds his farm allotment will be subject to a quota penalty on his "excess" cotton.
- Price support at a level within the range of 65 to 90 percent of parity will be available to growers who comply with their allotments.

IF QUOTAS ARE NOT APPROVED —

- No marketing quotas and no marketing quota penalties will apply to the 1963 upland cotton crop.
- Farm acreage allotments will continue in effect.
- Price support at 50 percent of parity will be available to growers who comply with their farm allotments.

The vote is not on allotments. No matter how the vote turns out, cotton allotments will remain in effect, and price support will be available only to growers who comply with the allotments for their farms. Farm allotments as now established for the 1963 crop would not be reduced by any new legislative provisions, but, of course, could be increased.

WHY QUOTAS?

By law, the Secretary of Agriculture must proclaim a national marketing quota for the next cotton crop whenever upland cotton supplies exceed "normal" as defined by law. Farmers then decide by their votes whether the quotas are to be used in handling the extra-large supplies.

Supplies for 1962-63 are estimated at 22,131,000 running bales—4,711,000 bales above the normal supply figure.

The 1963 national marketing quota is 14,367,000 bales (500 lbs. gross weight). The national allotment acreage for producing this quota is 16,000,000 acres. In addition, legislation provides a national acreage reserve of 310,000 acres which may be used to the extent needed for the establishment of minimum farm allotments.

The national allotment is divided among States and counties on the basis of the acreage planted to cotton during the 5-year base period 1957-61, with adjustments as provided by law.

QUOTAS AND YOU

Under a marketing quota program, you may market all your upland cotton free of penalty if you do not produce more acres of cotton than your farm allotment. All your cotton will then be eligible for price support. You may adjust your planted acreage to the farm allotment within a time limit.

If the cotton acreage remains overplanted, the excess cotton will be subject to a marketing penalty (50 percent of the cotton parity price as of June 15, 1963), and the crop will not be eligible for price support. Generally, the excess cotton is the farm's normal yield on the excess acres. However, if the producer establishes by a specified date that the actual yield is less than the normal yield, the ASC County Committee will reduce the amount of cotton subject to the penalty.

ALLOTMENTS

Your cotton allotment is valuable. It is used to determine your fair share of the cotton market. It belongs to your farm and is based largely on your farm's past cotton production history. It may not be "sold," and it may be transferred only as provided by law.

All farms on which cotton was planted in any of the years 1960, 1961, or 1962 will be eligible for cotton allotments in 1963 as "old cotton farms." This is also true of farms that legally maintained their rights to cotton allotments even though not growing cotton. Other farms may be considered for

allotments as "new cotton farms" upon application to the ASCS county office by the established closing date.

To protect your farm allotment base—used in determining future farm acreage allotments, you must plant (or be regarded as planting) at least 75 percent of your 1963 farm acreage allotment. Otherwise, your base for the following year will be reduced to the average of (1) the regular allotment for 1963, and (2) the acreage planted or regarded as planted in 1963.

This rule applies to all farm cotton allotments regardless of size.

APPEALS

If you are dissatisfied with your farm acreage allotment, you may ask for a review of your case by a review committee appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Your request must be filed in writing with the county office manager within 15 days after the ASC County Committee mails the allotment notice.

If you are not satisfied with the review committee's decision, you may within 15 days request a review of the case by a court.

A separate referendum will be held on Dec. 11, 1962, on marketing quotas for the 1963 crop of extra long staple cotton in designated counties where this kind of cotton is produced.

If you have any questions about your eligibility to vote or if you wish additional information about the cotton program, see your ASC County Committee.